

# Orexart welcomes Philippa Blair back

A dynamic return after twenty years in L.A.

Philippa Blair, *Tilt*, 2014, oil on canvas  
610 x 460mm. Courtesy of the artist.

well as being included in numerous books.

Blair's extensive and practice is based around expressionistic, semi-abstract painting and print making. To quote American ARTNews critic, Lily Wei, "Blair employs a full arsenal of abstract expressionist techniques, including the turning of her canvases so that there is no fixed point of view. Her gestures can crash against each

other like a multi-car pile-up but in fact are controlled impulses, rhythmically taut, expertly choreographed body movements embodied in stroke and colour, a bravura orchestration that is both physical and emotional."

Blair works into, across, around and out to her rhythm. She is driven to challenge structure so constantly explores the delicate balance between chaos and order in such a way as to bring new forms to light.

The artist powerfully pushes and pulls paint across her canvases. She draws upon brain-eye-hand

coordination as she mark-makes using mental and visual perception to guide her body to paint. The body leaves its traces on the canvas.

There is plenty of action. Viewers can sense this action as they visually meander along confident lines crossing the surface, allowing their eyes to trace scratch paths, or whisk around swirling brush marks. There are purposeful pauses that allow the viewer to rest before being attracted to dramatic accents that punch from or scrape through the whole image. Sometimes Blair marries two or more canvases where the eye can slide or bump to another visual chapter.

As much as her paintings are built up through gestural action they are generated from intuition together with experiences she holds as memories. Her resource also includes sites linguistics, maps, musical scores, charts and travel.

There is deep emotional and physical undertaking in bringing into being Blair's dynamic abstraction. They are fearless results of the artist using her intuition and being open to false moves that she views as opportunities for new possibilities.



Orexart gallery is very pleased to welcome Philippa Blair back to New Zealand after some twenty years residing and working in Los Angeles, California. The gallery is delighted to be representing such a distinguished New Zealand artist.

Christchurch-born Blair has exhibited her work internationally in a career spanning forty-five years. She has held more than 100 solo exhibitions and is in numerous public and private collections internationally. Blair has been the subject of many magazine articles and reviews as